



17 January 2008

**West Murray Bush Fire Brigade scores two new trucks**

West Murray Bush Fire Brigade recently celebrated two new additions to their volunteer bush fire brigade team – two brand new fire trucks supplied to them by the Fire and Emergency Services Authority.

Shadow Minister for Emergency Services and Member for Murray, Murray Cowper, has commended FESA for assisting the volunteer brigade, and hopes that the latest contribution from FESA signals a heightened respect for the needs of volunteer emergency services in WA.

“I have been fairly outspoken in the past about the need for FESA to contribute more to volunteer emergency services in the way of equipment and training, and from what I hear on the ground it appears that FESA is beginning to sit up and take notice of what our volunteers are saying.”

Mr Cowper has been criticised by the State Government for speaking out about the plight of volunteer emergency service workers, who he says have come to him from all parts of WA complaining of things such as needing to go to their local councils for money each time they needed to refuel their vehicles, outdated premises in disrepair, and embarrassment at a recent national competition in which interstate teams complained about Western Australian equipment not being up to standard.

“I hope that the recent generosity from FESA to volunteer brigades signals a cultural shift in FESA and the way it works with its volunteers, without which they could not effectively function as an organisation for assisting West Australians in need.”

**Media Contact : Murray Cowper 0417 990 953**